

## Safe Parking Public Forum Questions and Responses

Many of the questions regarding program operations, vetting of potential participants, and the program guidelines are answered in the Frequently Asked Questions and the Use Agreement which contains the Proposed Program Operations "Exhibit B" and Program Guidelines "Exhibit C." The following is a summary of the questions received from the Public Forum on January 14, 2020 that pertain to the operations of Jewish Family Service (JFS) Safe Parking Program proposed at Leichtag Commons and responses to provide additional clarification.

### **What are the City's plans to help the homeless population in Encinitas?**

The City of Encinitas currently provides funding to partner organizations in Encinitas such as the Community Resource Center through Community Development Block Grant funds and the General Fund to provide services for homeless intervention. In addition, On October 23, 2019, City Council approved moving forward with the "Homeless Outreach Program for Empowerment" (HOPE) by providing a full-time sheriff's deputy in partnership with a County social worker and Community Resource Center to proactively work with the Encinitas homeless. The City Council also approved on December 18, 2019, a contract with LeSar Development Consultants to prepare a Homeless Action Plan: [https://encinitas.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=7&clip\\_id=2053&meta\\_id=106463](https://encinitas.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=2053&meta_id=106463).

### **How many homeless people live in Encinitas, and how many live in the other North County cities?**

Based on the 2019 Regional Taskforce on the Homeless' "Point in Time" count, the total number of homeless individuals (sheltered and unsheltered) in the North County region was 1,975, of which 354 are living out of their vehicles. In Encinitas, the "Point in Time" count was 120 (41 sheltered, 79 unsheltered). This is a slight decrease from 125 in 2018 (39 sheltered, 86 unsheltered). While specific information for the homeless profile in 2019 is not available, of the 86 unsheltered individuals in 2018, 51 individuals were living out of their vehicles in Encinitas.

### **Have the other North County cities declared a shelter crisis?**

The following jurisdictions have identified a shelter crisis in North County: County of San Diego, City of Oceanside, City of Encinitas, City of Escondido, and City of Del Mar.

### **What is defined as North County for the purpose of this grant?**

The program is designed to serve participants from the Cities of Encinitas, Carlsbad, San Marcos, Vista, Escondido, and Oceanside with the understanding the participant's city of origin will not be used to determine eligibility, which is a specific requirement of the HEAP funding. JFS has indicated that it will prioritize referrals from Encinitas based organizations to include (but not limited to) the Community Resource Center, Mira Costa College, Encinitas Union School District, San Dieguito Union High School District, Magdalena Ecke YMCA, local Head Start programs, local hospitals, non-profit health care entities and faith communities. For more information see Use Agreement Exhibit B in the staff report.

### **Will there be a way for the community to get involved and help the homeless?**

If this program is approved, JFS would partner with local organizations to offer community engagement opportunities.

### **With whom will JFS be working to implement the Safe Parking Program?**

JFS will be working with Encinitas based organizations and service providers to assist in providing referrals and to provide additional services such as food assistance, employment support, connection to community services, benefits enrollment, childrens' supports, and laundry and shower facilities through multiple service agencies off-site as needed. For more information, see Use Agreement Exhibit B in the staff report.

### **If HEAP funding is available through May 31, 2021, could this decision be delayed?**

JFS has indicated that it received approval from the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) to launch the Safe Parking Program no later than the end of January 2020.

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### **How much of the grant will be used to pay Leichtag or the City directly or through incidental expenses for the parking lot?**

The Leichtag Foundation and the City will not receive any compensation from the grant outside of the \$1 per year lease rate. HEAP funding was awarded to Jewish Family Service, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Through this State funding and additional private philanthropy, JFS will cover all expenses to operate the program. The Leichtag Foundation has offered to lease a 25-space portion of a parking lot at Leichtag Commons to the City of Encinitas for \$1 and, in turn, JFS will lease that section of property from the City of Encinitas for \$1. For more information, see the Use Agreement and Frequently Asked Questions in the staff report.

### **Why is this site being proposed? Were other sites considered? If not, why?**

On October 5, JFS proposed a Safe Parking Program on Leichtag Commons. On November 20, 2019, City staff was directed by City Council to prepare draft agreements for the operation of the Safe Parking Program at the Leichtag Commons site. Prior to JFS's proposal for City Council consideration, JFS considered alternative sites in locations throughout North County. The proposed location is within a fenced location with security.

### **What bathroom facilities and lighting will be used? Will additional lighting and porta potties be installed?**

The proposed location has access to existing lighting. Handicap accessible restrooms "porta potties" will be provided on site and cleaned regularly. See Use Agreement in the staff report.

### **How are program participants being screened? What are the services being provided to assist the homeless living in the JFS Safe Parking Lot?**

The contract between JFS and RTFH for the HEAP funding provided the parameters for the program responsibilities which were incorporated and clarified in Exhibit B of the Use Agreement between the City and JFS. Exhibit details JFS responsibilities including, intake and vetting procedures, the housing navigation services to be provided to program participants, daily operations of the programs and program metrics to be tracked. See Use Agreement Exhibit B and the Frequently Asked Questions in the staff report for more information on the Proposed Program.

### **What is the term of the Agreement? What are the metrics being measured?**

The initial term of the Use Agreement shall be for a term of four (4) months (January 30, 2020-May 31, 2020). The City shall conduct an evaluation of the Program after the third month of operation. The City Council will consider the evaluation in open session and may extend the Use Agreement for three additional 4-month periods for a total of 16 months.

The program metrics identified in the Use Agreement Exhibit B will be provided to staff on a monthly basis from JFS and the Sheriff's Department. This information will be provided to the City Council after the third month of the program for City Council to determine whether to continue the program. Staff will continue to monitor the program and present the metrics every four months to City Council. For specific metrics details, see Frequently Asked Questions and the Use Agreement.

### **What are the Safe Parking Program Guidelines?**

The Program Guidelines are found in Exhibit C of the Use Agreement and are the guidelines for participating in the Safe Parking Program. These guidelines must be agreed to in writing by each participant before being allowed to enter the Program.

### **How many vehicles are allowed? What if more than 25 cars show up?**

The Use Agreement limits the maximum participation to 25 vehicles. All program participants will be met offsite and screened for eligibility before being allowed to participate in the program. All adults are

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screened through the Megan's Law database, the National Sex Offender Registry and for any outstanding warrants. Registered sex offenders and those with outstanding warrants are not eligible. The security personnel at the entry gate will provide any non-enrolled participants information regarding the program and the enrollment process and will also advise them not to park in adjacent residential neighborhoods. For more information, see Frequently Asked Questions and Use Agreement.

### **Is the Zoning Changing?**

The Leichtag Commons current zoning is Encinitas Ranch Specific Plan – Agriculture which will remain. Under Shelter Crisis Law and local police powers, the City can determine that it is in the public's interest to suspend regulations that would hinder efforts to mitigate the effects of the Shelter Crisis. The Safe Parking Program use will only apply to the 25 parking spaces identified and ends once the program ends.

### **How is the City dealing with the potential impacts to the surrounding residential area?**

As part of the Program Metrics, the Sheriff's Department will be collecting data on crime and calls within the area surrounding Leichtag Commons that will be provided to staff. This information will be provided to the City Council at the three-month evaluation point, and at each four-month renewal point thereafter over the course of the agreement before the Program Use Agreement can be renewed. Staff will work closely with JFS, Leichtag, and the Sheriff's Department to address any concerns associated with the Program.